

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's amendment, filed June 27th, 2008, has overcome the objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, set forth in the previous Office Action. These objections and rejections have been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments, see page 11, filed June 27th 2008, with respect to the drawing objection have been full considered and are persuasive. The objection to the drawings has been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments, see pages 13-14, filed June 27th, 2008, with respect to the art rejection based on Fukuma (USPN 5,106,190) have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claim 1 has been withdrawn.

Drawings

The drawings filed on April 26th, 2006 are accepted.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-9 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 1, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a spectrophotometer to analyze an article to be measured comprising a main light reception unit including a group of charge accumulation type photodetection element pixel which receive, for various wavelengths or wavelength bands of light emitted from the light emission means, light that has been transmitted through the article to be measured and have been spectrally separated by the spectrometer, and wherein the photodetection element pixels convert the light into an amount of charge to be accumulated, a sample use light reception unit for accumulating, in the form of an amount of charge, a portion of said incoming light simultaneously with said main light reception unit and reading the charge

Art Unit: 2877

of a specified wavelength or specified band of said incoming light, an analogue circuit further comprising a zero-point compensation circuit, provided in the vicinity of at least a final stage of said analogue circuit unit, to sequentially acquire the zero-point of all the amplification circuits immediately prior to sequential reading of the charge accumulated on the pixels of said main light reception unit and sample-use light reception unit, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KARA E. GEISEL whose telephone number is (571)272-2416. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 10am to 6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory J. Toatley, Jr. can be reached on 571 272 2000 ext. 877. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

**/Kara E Geisel/
Primary Examiner,
Art Unit 2877**

October 21, 2008